



**Environmental Services Division**  
Energy and Waste Management Bureau

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## **GASOLINE PRICES BOUNCE ON OIL GAINS**

DES MOINES — Gasoline prices bounced higher as cold weather finally hit the U.S., resulting in higher crude oil prices. On Dec. 15, regular gasoline blended with ethanol in Iowa was selling for \$2.14 per gallon. This was \$0.08 higher than last month, and 27 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.69 per gallon).

The latest data shows that ethanol-blended gasoline represented 77 percent of all retail gasoline sold in October. All auto manufacturers warrant the E-10 blend of 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent gasoline for use.

The average price for regular gasoline in Iowa was \$2.19. This was \$0.08 higher than last month, and 287 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.71 per gallon).

“Historically, gasoline prices bottom out in the fall,” said Jennifer Moehlmann, energy data analyst for the DNR. “We expect to see higher prices and continued volatility throughout the winter.”

Pressured by decreasing demand due to the end of harvest, diesel prices continued to fall, selling on Dec. 15 for \$2.48, down \$0.07 from last month, but still 28 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.94 per gallon).

Oil prices settled at \$58.07 on Dec.16, \$1.71 more than one month ago and 25 percent higher than last year (\$46.29).

According to the DNR’s Dec. 19 fuel price survey, the average retail price of propane was \$1.54 per gallon, \$0.03 higher than last month and 20 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$1.28 per gallon). The Energy Information Administration predicts propane expenditures this winter may rise 15 percent, compared to last year.

The price survey reported the average retail price of No. 2 heating oil was \$2.11 per gallon, \$0.09 lower than last month and 33 percent above last year’s price at this time (\$1.59 per gallon). The EIA predicts heating oil expenditures this winter may rise 21 percent, compared to last year.

On Dec. 16, natural gas was trading at \$13.38/MMBtu, \$4.13 higher than last month and 93 percent above the price of natural gas at this time last year (\$6.94/MMBtu). Natural gas prices increased due to the onset of extremely cold weather in much of the U.S.. The Iowa Utilities Board predicts residential natural gas bills this winter may rise 36 to 50 percent, depending on the weather.

With higher heating prices predicted this year, consumers should make improvements to their homes' efficiency to help lessen the blow. Simply caulking and weather-stripping to eliminate air leaks can save 10 percent on a typical home's energy bill. More tips for saving energy and money at home and on the road are available at [www.EnergySavingTips.gov](http://www.EnergySavingTips.gov).

#### MOTOR FUELS SURVEY STATE AVERAGES

<b>Self-Serve</b>	<b>November 15</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	2.06	2.14	+0.08
Regular Unleaded	2.11	2.19	+0.08
Premium Unleaded	2.17	2.25	+0.08
Diesel	2.55	2.48	-0.07

Source: Oil Price Information Service, [www.opisnet.com](http://www.opisnet.com)

#### AVERAGE SELF-SERVE REGULAR WITH ETHANOL PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES

	<b>November 15</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Ames	2.03	2.14	0.11
Cedar Rapids	2.00	2.15	0.15
Council Bluffs	1.99	2.11	0.12
Davenport	2.09	2.18	0.09
Des Moines	1.94	2.15	0.21
Dubuque	2.08	2.20	0.12
Fort Dodge	2.03	2.17	0.14
Iowa City	2.11	2.16	0.05
Sioux City	2.11	2.15	0.04
Waterloo	2.06	2.00	-0.06
Webster City	2.08	2.20	0.12
Average Metro Price	2.05	2.15	0.10

Source: Oil Price Information Service, [www.opisnet.com](http://www.opisnet.com)

#### WHOLESALE PRICES IN DES MOINES, IOWA

	<b>November 15</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Unleaded Gasoline	1.54	1.68	+0.14
10% Ethanol-blended gasoline	1.59	1.70	+0.11
E85	1.97	1.83	-0.14
Diesel Fuel	1.84	1.89	+0.05

Source: Oil Price Information Service, [www.opisnet.com](http://www.opisnet.com)

#### HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	<b>November 14</b>	<b>December 19</b>	<b>Change</b>
Natural Gas	9.25	13.38	+4.13
Propane	1.51	1.54	+.03
#2 Heating Oil	2.20	2.11	-.09

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Iowa Department of Natural Resources